

The Doctrine of Christ no 09

“Jesus was an obedient son”

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This morning we will speak on the eighth attribute concerning the difference between the Father and Son and that is that “Jesus was Obedient to His Father in all things”.

You see, God can not be obedient to anyone outside Himself His own word because he is the Only immortal King, and He alone is omnipotent and omniscient.

For our first Scripture this morning let’s turn to **Hebrews 5:8** *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*

Notice the Scripture tells us that *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience*. Now, most of the time people talk of obedience concerning servants, slaves and such. But this speaks of the Son of God, and his obedience to His Father.

Now, what I wish to show you this morning is that through the obedience of this one son, brought many sons to God. And the very fact that he was an obedient son shows that God was greater than He. Yet God chose to inhabit Him, because God inhabits the praises of His People. And God inhabited the body of His Son who declared His Father to the World. He openly manifested His Father to this lost and dying world.

Now, the importance of understanding this principle that Jesus was an obedient son is that he is the pattern for all sons in which to come. And through this obedience to His Father, He was taken up and adopted before witnesses, and as brother Branham makes so plain in his sermon, “hear Ye Him” that it takes obedience to the Father in order for the son to receive inheritance, and though you might be a son of God, if you are not an obedient son you will not receive any inheritance unless you are an obedient son.

On the wings of a dove 65-1128E P:38 *Also used in **Matthew 3:16**, again when God's wrath was on the earth. And there was no way, the darkest of night, midnight, the churches had got things in such a twist till there was no way to get out of it. And there was false teachers, all kinds of things coming up, all kinds of professions coming up, but God used a dove again. It pleased Him; His Son Jesus had pleased Him so well, that He identified Him. Now, they couldn't believe that this Baby that was born down there in that stable in a manger of hay, before his father and mother, supposed to be, was married. They couldn't imagine God using anything like that. So He had to be identified to the world; and that day down on the river, when He walked down to prove Hisself God's Masterpiece (that I talked about this morning)... When He was obedient to walk into the water...*

What visions are 56-0421 P:44 *Now, He got weak at that. But now, when God wanted to use His gift, Christ. And He picked up Christ and said, "Now, wait, You leave this home, and you go away and be gone four days. And they're going to send for You, but don't You go, because Lazarus going to die. And on the fourth day You return back; You're going to find a stone laying over the grave. I'm going to get glory to Myself, and I want You have them to take away the stone, and then You speak. And when You speak Lazarus' name, he's*

*coming forth.” **Jesus obedient to the Father**, does nothing, He said, till the Father showed Him first in a vision. Does the Bible say that? How many has read it this week since we've been talking about it? **Saint John 5:19**. Yes, sir. Jesus said, "I do nothing at all, until the Father shows Me first, then I go do what He tells Me. I do nothing except He shows Me." That's right. Jesus said that. Did He tell the truth? He had to.*

***John 5:17** But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

John 5:19** Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things so ever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 5:30** I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Those are not the words of a man who thinks he is an island unto himself. Those are not the words of a man who says, “I am my own man”. Those are the words of an obedient son. And further more, we will find that this obedience to God’s Word bring Life, while disobedience to God’s Word brings death. This nation and the world turned down the Voice of God to this generation, and they are now in the process of living out the curse of God upon those who turn down His Voice.

You think the world is in a sad condition, you just wait a while. You thought that things are getting tough financially, you wait after a while, you haven’t seen nothing net. Total destruction is on it’s way, and there is only one thing that can stop it, and that is for the world to repent and turn back to the voice of God, but do you think they will ever do it? It’s too late, they haven’t the heart to do it. God is setting to leave this earth very soon, and with it all hope will be gone. Come into the light and life while there is time.

Brother Branham explains Deuteronomy, the two laws in his sermon, **God's only provided place of worship 65-1128M P:37** *Now, the word "Deuteronomy," the word itself means "two laws," the word "Deuteronomy." And God has two laws. The two laws: one of them is disobedient to the Word and die; and the other one is obedience to the Word and live. That's the two laws, and "Deuteronomy" means those "two laws." They have both been absolutely displayed to us in the Scripture. One of them is death; the other one is Life: Life and death. God deals only in Life, Satan only in death. And these was displayed to the world publicly, openly before every eye, and there's no excuse for it. One of them was displayed on Mount Sinai when the law was given, which condemned the whole human race to death. The other one was give on Mount Calvary, that brought the whole human race to Life, when the penalty was paid in Jesus Christ. The two laws of Deuteronomy was fulfilled in these two great things.*

***John 12:49** For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

Investments 63-1116B P:105 *Our heavenly Father, as many are on their feet, they signify by this that they want Life. And **Life comes only through obedience to Christ. He is Life.** He has the condition that we must meet. And by meeting this condition... As we think of Abraham, he believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness. And after it was imputed unto him for righteousness, God give him the seal of circumcision as a confirmation that He had received his faith. Many of these people profess to have faith, but they haven't been sealed yet by the Holy Ghost. And now, they're standing, Lord, as a commemoration that they do believe. Now, seal them, Lord, with the Holy Ghost. May It fall upon them and seal every heart here just now. May the Holy Ghost fall in this ballroom just at this time. And, Satan, you get out of their life, turn them loose. And may the power of the resurrected Jesus Christ come upon these people just now, and may they be filled with the power and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Rising of the sun 65-0418M P:127 *And now (See?), now you are already resurrected. **When God raised Him up, He raised you;** the Son is just now on you. And now you're growing into a blossom Life like He was to be resurrected completely in that last day. Your potentials you have now. Why do you know? Your soul changed, didn't it? **Your body come in obedience to It, didn't it? Into obedience to what? A church? The Word, which is the Life.** Then you are now resurrected from the dead. It is Easter with Jesus and I. It's Easter with you and Jesus, and it's Easter with you, I, and Jesus. We are all--Jesus, you, and I--we're all resurrected together and we will rise at the last day even though our spirits leave our body, even though the bodies rust, may they go to dust, may they be burnt up, may they be in the bottom of the sea--the Bible said an Angel poured out his upon the sea and everything that died come up. There's nothing can hide us or separate us from that God that we love so well, that's raised us up together.*

John 8: 29 *And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.***

Easter seal 65-0410 P:35 *God's Word, as Jesus, was born the Son of God to be Emmanuel, God's full expression in a Man... And **He found Him in perfect obedience down at the river of Jordan, being baptized by that prophet.** And as soon as He obeyed Him and walked out of the water, the heavens opened to John, and he saw the Holy Ghost descending from heaven, saying, "**This is My beloved Son.**" See, perfect obedience, the Spirit had sought Him out in obedience. Oh, wayward man or woman this morning, when you're setting here and there's something in you telling you this is right, it's the Holy Spirit seeking you out to bring you to a knowledge of truth of this hour that we're now living: not some hour that's gone by, the hour now.*

John 10:18 *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. **This commandment have I received of my Father.***

And don't ever forget he said the commandments of my Father they are life. For God is Life.

Token the 64-0308 P:53 *Look, then when we realize and present the Token, the Life it took for the Token, the Blood speaks for us. Remember, the covenant Blood was recognized with the Token, and the Word assures us of the promise. The Token is the sign that the purchase is made for us. Now, if you're not included in that, well, of course, you'll never get nothing; you're just walking through a prayer line, walking back out, walking up to the altar, and looking up, walking back out. But, oh, brother, when that Token's once placed in your heart, and you know it's **the resurrection of Jesus Christ in you**, something's happening. There isn't nothing going to turn you. You know where you belong. Full obedience to the whole Word of God entitles you to the Token, and nothing else. "Blessed is he that does all of His Commandments, he might have right to the Tree of Life." Then when we pray, we must have the Token to present with our prayers. Now, don't fail to get that. When you pray, you must have the Token to hold over your prayer; if you're not, you pray until the Token comes, 'cause you're not promised to receive it. See, **you've got to have this Token first; that's the paying price, your faith to believe it.***

Easter seal 65-0410 P:75 *Watch the action of those disciples: a-scared? They knew Jesus was the truth; but you see, it was against the popular idea, the popular religion of the hour. The most strictest religion--Pharisees, Sadducees, and so forth (their cults, clans and denominations) they were against that heresy; but **Jesus was the identified Word, and Jesus is the Holy Ghost in Spirit.** "A little while and the world seeth Me no more, you shall see Me," not the body, the Life that was in Him: God is upon the church to call sons like He did then, **obedient**; "I always do that which is pleasing to My Father. Which one of you can accuse Me of sin." In other words, sin is unbelief. "What has the Word said about Me that I haven't done? (There it is.) Show Me what the Word said that I'd do that I didn't do? Which one can accuse Me? Which one can lay your fingers on Me and say that I haven't fulfilled My Father's Word?" Oh, when the Pentecostal church gets to that spot, "Who can accuse Me of unbelief?"*

John 10:25 *Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: **the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.***

World's Falling Apart 63-0412M P:57 *Now, get back to the truth of the Word. **God lives alone. God wants His people to live alone with Him.** They want them tied into anything, any sensations, traditions. **He wants children obedient with His Word,** that He can place His Word in there. Jesus said, "If ye abide in Me and My Word's in you, then ask what you will." That's either the truth or it isn't the truth. If it is the truth, it'll work. Now, **you want to know where the secret lies of power, of visions and things? Is back to the Word.** It's the Word of God. Jesus was the Word. **He was the manifestation of God. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, and He was the Word.** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was made flesh." And **the Word wants to be made our flesh.** But when we're all wrapped up in all kinds of stuff, and traditions, and permitted to live like the world, and things like that, and then expect God to do that? Why, certainly He won't.*

John 10:32 *Jesus answered them, Many good works have **I showed you from my Father;** for which of those works do ye stone me?*

John 14:31 *But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.*

Romans 5:19 *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

There's your two laws again, one death by disobedience and the other Life through obedience. ***“by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”***

Reproach for the word 62-1223 P:63 *One child, that's all it took. It took one child to shake the nations and point to the Messiah. It took one obedient. That's right. God just needs one man. That's all He needs, somewhere He can have a voice. That's all He wants, to get just one man in His control. Oh, how He loves to get one man.*

I know 60-0417S P:53 *All made possible to us because there was One obedient in trial, there was One Who stood the test; that was Jesus. The One Who was so obedient to the Father, till the Father raised Him up on Easter morning, because it was not possible that He should be holding of death. "*

Abraham's covenant confirmed 61-0318 P:60 *Then he said, "Isaac, put your hands behind you." He took a string and begin to tie his hands. Isaac knew then. Watch his obedience like Jesus, the true Son of God, obedience unto death; took the cross. Tied his hands and his feet.*

Super sign 59-1227M P:49 *Someone, as I have said before, wants to make Him a little short God. He was man; God was using a man. God was using a flesh that He created Himself in order to create through Him and to "Bring through Him many sons," says the Scripture, "through that obedient Son. Through one son all fell; through an obedient Son all shall live that believe."*

Now, the next thing I want to focus on is what this obedience brings. It brings inheritance if you are a son, and then an obedient son, then you receive the inheritance God has for you. Brother Branham began to focus on this as far back as 1954 and preached it all the way up to and including the time of the seals and even up until his being taken off the scene.

In his sermon, **Resurrection of Jairus daughter 1954-0302 P:18** brother Branham brings out about Jesus obedience to the father, even to the point of his own death. *He was always busy about the Father's business. He was a very humble Son in obedience even to death.*

The he preaches a series on the Faith of Abraham in 1955 and brings out this same theme, **Faith of Abraham 55-1118 P:45** *I've got a Lord Jesus Who died for me. I'm no good, never was, and never will be, and you are not either, but Jesus Christ was God's perfect Sacrifice. And through His shed Blood and obedience to the Father, we can possess any enemy's gate, and triumph.*

And again in 1956 we see brother Branham place this theme as well in **God's covenant with Abraham 56-0223 P:3** *I believe the report of the Bible, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that He through His righteousness of His coming to the earth in obedience to God, I'm justified by faith and believing God, and have the privilege to be son of God.*

And then a few months later brother Branham begins to fine tune his understanding of what this obedience was all about and in September of 1956 he preaches a sermon called, **Spiritual adoption 56-0923 P:46** and hones into the adoption message which he then takes to the world for the rest of His life. In this sermon he said, *"It was on the mountain, and after Jesus had been an obedient Child, the flesh, the Lamb, had been led by the Holy Spirit, God, moving in Him... "I come not to do My will, but the will of Him that sent Me. And the One that sent Me, the Father that sent Me is with Me. And as the Father hath sent Me, and went with Me, so send I you."* Not only did He send, but He went with Him. And God don't just educate a man and send him out with a declaration of some seminary experience, but if he's equipped, God goes with him. *"I'll be with you, even in you, to the end of the age."* Notice, beautifully, oh how the Word does so go together. How the Holy Spirit cements it into the heart of the people by revelation and love of the Lord Jesus.

Five months later brother Branham preaches on the same subject but this time he uses a different name for the sermon and calls it **Hear ye Him 57-0125 P:28**. Now, for the next few years before the seals are open and the real revelation of Jesus Christ comes into full view, brother Branham crisscrosses the nation preaching this same sermon many times, trying to get the people into the spirit of adoption to become open to the word as God brings it and get us ready to receive are inheritance, the revealed word of God.

P:28 *But Jesus was transfigured before them, God placing His Son. And He robed Him with a garment that glistened like the sun shining in its strength. And a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him. Moses is gone. The law is gone. But this is My Son; hear ye Him."* That ought to tell you. God placing His own Son... So the law has finished. And all of the Old Testament has been lived. And there's none left but Christ. And God's someday, if the people who are born again of the Spirit of God, and the Tutor brings message to Father one day it's called to the side, and visited by God, and **positionally placed into the body of Christ as a teacher, prophet, evangelist, teacher, pastor, whatever you have been obedient since he's been born, God places that person. You see it?**

Then four months later brother Branham preaches this same message again **Hear ye Him 57-0519A P:40** Now, watch. God never did anything 'less He asked man to do, but what He did Himself. **His Son, when He was born here on earth, He was an obedient Son.** Every step was for the Father. Everything He done was to glorify God. And we seen God in Christ. Is that right? *"No man has seen the Father at any time, but the only begotten of the Son has declared Him."* **The very move, the very action, everything that Christ did was God working in Him.** You get it now? Now, watch what takes place. Then God takes His Son after a long life, just before Calvary, and He taken Him up on a high mountain in a public place. He brought the heavenly witnesses down. He brought the earthly witnesses up. And there God took His Son, and when they looked up, they saw a cloud that overshadowed them. And Jesus' raiment shined like the sun in the midst of the day. What was it? **God put a robe on Him, just like the old adoption said.** He robed Him in a glorified condition. No wonder He said, *"All powers in heavens and earth is given to My hands."* He robed Him and He placed Him. And then He said, *"This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him."* Then He had the powers of heavens and earth was given unto His hands.

Then a 18 months later brother Branham preaches the Message **Hear ye Him 58-0126 P:21** *And when a meeting comes, and a Spirit of God begins to work... We know that there's false; I know there's mental illusions; I know there's all kinds of illusions. Because the Bible said there would be. But where the church has let down, it ought to have the church taught and set up in such a way that it would know the right from wrong. See where we're at? Then the Holy Spirit has to bring that type of a message to the Father. Oh, my, what must He say? A certainly, if that boy or any teacher knows, in the Bible, that **if that boy wasn't an obedient child, yet he was a son, he never inherited anything.** Any Bible reader knows that. Read Ephesians, 1st chapter the 5th verse. **God predestinated us unto the children of God by the adoption of Jesus Christ,** adopting and placing a son.*

And in paragraph **P:24 Hear ye Him 58-0126** he said, “*Now, **if this child is obedient, there was a ceremony to be made, when the child become matured. They took him out in a public place... Listen close; don't miss this. Watch the Scripture. They took the child out into a public place, placed a robe upon him, a royal robe, and they had a ceremony. And it was the ceremony of adoption. The child that had been born into the family, become placed by adoption in the family.** And after that, that boy's name was just as good on a check as his daddy's was. **He was heir of all things.** He could take out; he could put up; he could fire; he could hire. He could do whatever he pleased to do, because **the ceremony of adoption had been made upon his son, and he was clothed and was set in order. Now, there's where the Church ought to be today. Jesus said, "These things that I do, shall you do also. Ask anything in My Name, I'll do it."** Why we scared of that? What's the matter? If Christ has clothed us with the Holy Spirit, and been adopted into the family after being born again, and been baptized into the body by the Holy Spirit, if it's a true witness of God, **ask what you will and it'll be done for you.**”*

And then in paragraph **P:25 Hear ye Him 58-0126** he continues, “*Have you received a false spirit? Do you act yet with the things of the world, as we spoke of this afternoon. Do you still love them? Are they in your heart? Have you not been a separated person? Then maybe you haven't been adopted. But **once adopted, positionally placed in the body of Christ, you are heir of all things.** Notice, that's what God did to His Son. God didn't ask us to do anything that He would not do. **He took His own Son, Who had been obedient.** This was just a little before the crucifixion. Remember what He said come down? The Son of man goes to Jerusalem, be delivered in the hands of the Gentiles. Said, "Don't tell the vision to anyone." But while they were standing there, **God adopted His own Son, for He overshadowed Him. And the Bible said that He put a robe on Him, insomuch that His raiment shined like the sun in its strength, set Him up before heavenly witnesses, before earthly witnesses. And a voice said, "This is My beloved Son, hear ye Him."** Whatever He says, it's just as good as My Word. **He was adopted.** Jesus said, "**All powers in heaven and earth is given unto My hands.**” **There's the adoption of God adopting His Son.**”*

Then a week later he again preaches this same message **Hear ye Him 58-0209A P:33** and notice he speaks on the importance of obedience in receiving the inheritance. “*And on this placing of this son, that son's name was just as good on a check as his father's was, because **he'd been proven. He was obedient, and his name was good, just the same as the father.***”

That's what Jesus meant when He said, "*Ask the Father anything in My Name; I'll do it.*" Notice. Then God never asked anybody to do anything but what He did it first."

Again in the next paragraph he says, **Hear ye Him 58-0209A P:34** Now, He was going to adopt His own Son into His family. He took Him up on Mount. Transfiguration, a high place before the public. He brought three witnesses of the earth. A three is a confirmation We know that. He had three witnesses of earth, three witnesses of heaven. And there He clothed Christ, and He overshadowed Him, and His raiment shined like the sun in the middle of the day. But that robe that He placed on Him, showing that He had accepted Him, He was about the Father's business. He did just what the Father showed Him. God was with Him. Peter said, at Pentecost, "*Jesus, of Nazareth, a Man approved of God among you by signs and wonders, which He did...*" Jesus said, "*I do nothing till the Father shows Me first what to do.*" **Obedient...** Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if the church was in that condition today, obedient to the Father, reverent, and in the Holy Ghost. In those tight places, when you're afraid to speak up, it's like a gentleman, you stand where you should stand. Like a lady, you take the place, not with the world, but with Christ, reckoning yourself dead to the things of the world. And in the conferences and gatherings where you ministers stand, and your conference begins to talk against the supernatural, and against this, and "*this was for another age,*" take your stand. **God will honor you.** Oh, how my thought goes to the day that David danced around the ark and his wife laughed at him. But God said, "*He's a man after My own heart.*" Sure, you can't stand with men and God too. If you're a servant of man, you can't be a servant of God. **If you're a servant of God, you won't be a servant to man.** But there standing, God overshadowed and clothed Him with immortality. And a voice came from heaven speaking that He'd accepted Him.

Then seven weeks later he preaches the same Message, **Hear ye Him 58-0328 P:32** and says, "*The Holy Ghost said He only seal those who wept and sighed for the abomination that was did in the city. Who would He seal in this city tonight? Who lays on their face day and night crying for the sins in the city? Can you put your finger on one? See, the storm's about over. And that is right. But here we are. Now, if he was an obedient child, he loved his father, no matter what any of the other boys said on the next farm, he knew what his father wanted. He could tell from the way he'd built and what he had did, that what he wanted. And a man that's a son of God reads the Bible and see what God was yesterday, He's the same today. He believes Him to be the same in principle, in power, everything that He ever was, the great Jehovah is still the same. The Bible said. Hebrews 13:8. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever."* That's a true son believes that."

Two year go by and he preaches this same message **Hear ye Him 60-0313 P:31** "Now, when this boy, if he come up that way and did **not become obedient**, did not have the action of his father, did not try to carry his father's business on the way his father did, then that child **missed all its inheritance.** Another brother had to take its place. Now, today if we try to take the church before God under just common church creed or theology, that's not the way Jesus took the church before the Father. God wants the church to be filled with the Holy Ghost, doing the same works that He did when He was here on earth. That's the kind of Church that the Teacher, the Holy Spirit, will want to present before God."

And another two years and 8 months go by and then he again preaches on this same subject but changes the title and calls it **Blasphemous names 62-1104M P:61** "He's My beloved Son. Hear ye Him. That's Him; that's the One." Now, in the Old Testament when that son was adopted or placed into the family, his name was just as good on the check as his daddy's was. Yes, sir. They had a ring in them days, a sign, signet; and they'd spit on it, place it. That was a signet. He wore his daddy's ring, his signet; and that was just as good as his daddy's. Now, **when Jesus had been obedient, Jesus to God, God placed Him positionally: "This is Him."** Now, when the member is born by the Holy Ghost into the family of God and has proven to have these virtues in him, that God can see virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, and godliness in him, then God seals him or places him. And there, that's when you see the sons and daughters of God.

So what does all this mean? First we can see that Jesus Christ the Son of God was subject to his Father in all things. He was an obedient son, and he was our pattern. We also see if we are to receive inheritance we must also be obedient as he was, for He is our pattern. How do we do that? We must die to self.. We must allow "**God to work in us to will and to do**". But how can God work in us to will if we impose our own will upon or flesh instead of His will.

I am thoroughly convinced that many who claim to be sons of God in this late hour many be sons alright, but have not sufficiently died to self that they might be obedient sons. And without this attribute as obedient son, what inheritance do they have to look forward too? None. **Philippians 3:15** *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

Philippians 2:1-16 *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be **likeminded**, having the **same love**, being of **one accord**, of **one mind**. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus**: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of **no reputation**, and took upon him the **form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself**, and **became obedient** unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**. 13 **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure**. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be **blameless and harmless, the sons of God**, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 **Holding forth the word of life**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.*

Let us pray...